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Mr. Carter's book, as Professor Gray himself points out, appears to be the result of his opposition to the adoption of Mr. David Dudley Field's "Civil Code in New York." His analysis was probably in the first instance to show that the Law is not a set of arbitrary, inflexible rules, but that the Law differs with every generation and that, therefore, the idea of a Code of the substantive Laws is fundamentally wrong.

Carter's conception of substantive Law was expressed in terms of custom. A new set of circumstances arising would be decided by broad rules of conduct.

Professor Gray, on the other hand, would say that those cases where no universal conduct or practice (and no statute, judicial precedent or opinion of experts) exists are decided on principles of morality and equity. To call these principles custom, he would say, is inaccurate because custom is conduct or practice. The rule allowing three days' grace on bills of exchange was based originally on custom, but the rule in *Shelley's Case* was based on morality, which in this case would be public policy.

It must be admitted that, however great may be our appreciation of Mr. Carter's view, Professor Gray has presented us with a more accurate and satisfying analysis.

This little book, like everything else from Professor Gray's pen, is a carefully written, clearly expressed account of the result of much searching thought on the subjects considered.

The occasion of the publication of his views was the Carpentier lectures at Columbia University in 1908.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR DRAWING WILLS AND THE SETTLEMENT OF ESTATES IN PENNSYLVANIA. By John Marshall Gest of the Philadelphia Bar.

This book presents for consideration a concise and accurate compendium of the practical as well as legal questions encountered in that branch of a lawyer's work indicated by the title.

The section on Drawing of Wills was published in *THE AMERICAN LAW REGISTER* for November, 1907, and the lectures upon which the book is based were delivered to the students of the Law Department of the University of Pennsylvania.

The author shows not only great research among the authorities, and decisions relative to his subjects, but has instilled a quaint current of humor into his work that makes the volume not only valuable to the active practitioner, but readable even to the layman—a quality possessed by few legal treatises.

If technical books could all be written in the breezy style which characterizes Mr. Gest's lectures the student would smilingly burn the midnight oil until he had read and digested the last syllable. An easy task for humor aids digestion.

The wide field of first drafting a will in accordance with a testator's intentions and then accomplishing the execution thereof under the law is fully traversed by the author and the invaluable suggestions put forth show the result of study along practical lines together with close observation of human nature and a no mean ability in communicating this knowledge in an attractive form.

The citations from leading cases and the references to the statutes are mingled with apt quotations from both ancient and modern writers legal and literary; the musty law volume and the popular novel have each supplied illustrations both sage and humorous. In short, this is a practical, comprehensive guide and an able treatise. A book that cannot gather dust on the shelves—of assistance to the lawyer and if read by those outside of the profession points clearly the wisdom of Seneca's words: "We sought therefore to amend our will and not to suffer it through despite to languish long time in error," and refutes the sentiments of Othello, "The bloody book of law you shall read in the bitter letter after your own sense."

The closing sentences of advice to students of law give sound admonition presented in such form as makes the humor irresistible.

The author's preface, in explaining that "Ours is an occupation that dries the blood" recalls the sentiment of Horace, "Dulce est desipere in loco," and the reader will heartily agree in Latin verse,

"qui miscuit utile dulci
Lectorem delectando pariterque monendo."

L. I. R.